



04.01.021 Marijuana Possession and Consumption

Effective Date
September 1, 2017

Version
2017.1

Prepared By
Operations Manager

 **Approved By**
General Manager

Purpose

On February 24, 2015 the possession of marijuana for recreational use became legal in the State of Alaska. Possession and consumption remains illegal under Federal law. This policy provides guidance to crew and staff regarding the possession and consumption of marijuana and any incidental discovery aboard AMHS vessels or on AMHS property.

Scope

AMHS Employees, Terminal Staff, Vessel Crews

Policy

- I. Consumption of marijuana while on AMHS property or while onboard AMHS vessels is prohibited.¹
 - a. AMHS property as contained within this policy is defined as all offices, warehouses and terminal locations including all vehicle staging and dock areas as well as those terminals that are located on local city, borough or private property. Properties of terminal contract agents^A that are acting on behalf of AMHS are included in this definition.
 - i. If the department or organization that a terminal contract agent works for has a more restrictive policy regarding marijuana possession and consumption than the guidance contained within this policy; the policy of that department or organization will take precedence.
 - b. AMHS vessels as contained within this policy is defined as all vessels owned and/or operated by the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- II. Responsive action by AMHS staff regarding marijuana on AMHS property:
 - a. If staff observe an individual in possession of:
 - i. Less than one ounce^B of marijuana, staff will take no action.
 - ii. Greater than one ounce of marijuana, staff will report the matter to the local law enforcement agency. AMHS staff will NOT take any action to seize the marijuana.
 - b. If staff observe an individual(s) consuming marijuana, regardless of the method of consumption:
 - i. Staff will inform the individual(s) that public consumption is illegal and the individual is to immediately cease or leave the premises.
 - ii. If any individual refuses to obey, staff will report the identity of the individual to the local law enforcement agency.
 1. For contract terminals who are not located within the State of Alaska, and whose local laws may allow public consumption, local law enforcement may still be utilized to assist in removing the individual from the premises.
- III. Responsive action by AMHS crew regarding marijuana onboard AMHS vessels:
 - a. If AMHS crew observe a passenger in possession of:
 - i. Less than one ounce^C of marijuana, the crew will take no action.

^A Contract agents include, but are not limited to terminals located in Bellingham, WA, Prince Rupert, BC and Seldovia, AK.

^B One ounce is roughly a sandwich-sized Ziploc baggie in volume.

^C See footnote B.

- ii. Greater than one ounce of marijuana, the crew will report the matter to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and local law enforcement. AMHS crew will NOT take any action to seize the marijuana.
- b. If AMHS crew observe a passenger(s) consuming marijuana, regardless of the method of consumption:
 - i. Crew will inform the passenger(s) that public consumption is illegal and the passenger is to immediately cease.
 - ii. If passenger refuses to obey, the crew will report the identity of the individual to the USCG and local law enforcement.

Responsibilities

1. AMHS Employees:
 - a. Follows guidance contained within this policy regarding passenger possession and consumption of marijuana.
2. Terminal Staff:
 - a. Contacts local law enforcement if the need arises to remove an individual(s) from AMHS property.
3. Vessel Crews:
 - a. Contacts the USCG and local law enforcement if the need arises to report the consumption of marijuana onboard the vessel.

Forms

None

Revision History

Supersedes CSP&P NEW
Original Version 2017.1, September 1, 2017

References

¹ SOA, DOT&PF P&P 02.01.020 Employee Conduct
[AMHS Drug and Alcohol Policy](#)